

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1-3 and 7 as shown below, in which deleted terms are shown with strikethrough and/or double brackets, and added terms are shown with underscoring. This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently amended) An electronic key system for a vehicle, including a transmission antenna, a controller connected to the transmission antenna ~~mounted on the vehicle~~ and a portable transceiver for transmitting ~~an acknowledgement signal~~ ID data based on receipt of a request signal transmitted from the controller through the transmission antenna, wherein the controller receives the ID data through a receiving antenna,

the electronic key system for a vehicle further comprising: ~~the controller comprising:~~

first means which outputs a first request signal to the portable transceiver based on activation of the controller;

~~first~~ second means for outputting which outputs a second request signal to the portable transceiver following the first request signal, and in response to an ON operation of a start switch for the vehicle;

~~second~~ third means for detecting an acknowledgement signal ~~the ID data~~ from the portable transceiver based on the request signal; and

~~third~~ fourth means for outputting a warning an operator when the acknowledgement signal ~~ID data is not detected~~ received from the portable transceiver in the second means, regardless of even though output of the request signal has been outputted from the first means or the second means,

wherein when the ID data is detected in response to the first request signal, the controller allows power to be supplied to electrical component drive circuits, and

wherein when the ID data is detected in response to the second request signal, the controller allows power to be supplied to the vehicle such that vehicle travel is possible.

2. (Currently amended) The electronic key system for a vehicle according to claim 1, further comprising ~~wherein the controller further comprises fourth means for outputting a request signal to the portable transceiver based on activation of the controller, and fifth means for releasing a locked state of the vehicle when the controller receives the ID data transmitted from the portable transceiver based on the request signal from the first means~~an acknowledgement signal from the portable transceiver is detected in the second means based on the request signal from the fourth means.

3. (Currently amended) An electronic key system for a vehicle, including a controller mounted on the vehicle and a portable transceiver for transmitting an acknowledgement signal based on receipt of a request signal from the controller, the controller comprising:

first means for outputting a request signal to the portable transceiver every fixed period of time during travel of the vehicle;

second means for detecting an acknowledgement signal from the portable transceiver based on the request signal; and

third means for outputting a warning when the acknowledgement signal is not detected in the second means.

4. (Previously presented) The electronic key system for a vehicle according to claim 3, wherein an output period for the request signal of the first means is in a range from 10 to 100 seconds.

5. (Previously presented) The electronic key system for a vehicle according to claim 3, wherein the

third means counts periods in which the acknowledgement signal is not detected, and outputs a warning at a point in time when the count becomes greater than a specified value.

6. (Previously presented) The electronic key system for a vehicle according to claim 3, wherein the controller further comprises fourth means for outputting a request signal to the portable transceiver based on activation of the controller, and fifth means for releasing a locked state of the vehicle when an acknowledgement signal from the portable transceiver is detected in the second means based on the request signal from the fourth means.

7. (Currently amended) An electronic key system for a vehicle, including a controller mounted on the vehicle and a portable transceiver for transmitting an acknowledgement signal based on receipt of a request signal from the controller, the controller comprising:

first means for outputting a request signal to the portable transceiver every fixed period of time during travel of the vehicle;

second means for detecting an acknowledgement signal from the portable transceiver based on the request signal;

third means for outputting a warning when the acknowledgement signal is not detected in the second means;

fourth means for outputting a request signal to the portable transceiver based on an ON operation of a start switch for the vehicle; and

fifth means for outputting a warning when the acknowledgement signal is not detected in the second means, regardless of output of the request signal from the fourth means.

8. (Previously presented) The electronic key system for a vehicle according to claim 7, wherein an

output period for the request signal of the first means is in a range from 10 to 100 seconds.

9. (Previously presented) The electronic key system for a vehicle according to claim 7, wherein the third means counts periods in which the acknowledgement signal is not detected, and outputs a warning at a point in time when the count becomes greater than a specified value.

10. (Previously presented) The electronic key system for a vehicle according to claim 7, wherein the controller further comprises sixth means for outputting a request signal to the portable transceiver based on activation of the controller, and seventh means for releasing a locked state of the vehicle when an acknowledgement signal from the portable transceiver is detected in the second means based on the request signal from the sixth means.